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Observance of

Rural Life Sunday

BY 4-H CLUBS
1949



***THEME:* Better Living for a Better World**

EXTENSION SERVICE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
and STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES, cooperating

THE GOOD CITIZEN AND WORSHIP

Last fall, when the 4-H members of the International Farm Youth Exchange project returned home, several of them expressed the thought that houses of worship in the United States are better attended than in the countries visited. It is interesting that this should be so, because in the United States we have many more denominations than in other countries where Christianity is the predominating faith.

The observations of our 4-H'ers who visited Europe in 1948 support the traditional American belief that people of all faiths can work in happy unison to achieve the goals of humanity. Religious freedom has proved its strength in the relative importance placed in this country on the support given religious institutions, many in number.

It is most appropriate for 4-H Club members to set aside one Sunday during the year as 4-H Sunday. This year, it will occur on May 22. I trust that all 4-H'ers will make plans early to attend the church of their choice, either individually or as members of their local 4-H Club. This is in keeping with our ideas of good citizenship and one of the surest ways of perpetuating our concept of the democratic way of life.

M R Wilson

Director of Extension Work

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Washington 25, D. C.

OBSERVANCE OF RURAL LIFE SUNDAY BY 4-H CLUBS

May 22, 1949

Gertrude L. Warren
Organization of 4-H Club Work

THEME: BETTER LIVING FOR A BETTER WORLD

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SPIRITUAL VALUES IN 4-H CLUB WORK

We are glad to see increasingly coming into 4-H Club work a quality of spirituality that is worth while. In a recent camp, following a day of rich experiences, the whole group climbed to the top of a commanding hill for vespers. To sit on a hilltop with others in silence and meditation as the sun goes down and the evening shadows lengthen, to think together on things clean and worthy, to direct the mind away from material to more spiritual things, to commune with the soul--all are cultured things that help lift the mind up into the realm of the Creator and constitute a steadying, worthwhile influence in the midst of a very busy and often jazzy world. 4-H Club work may well include something of these spiritual matters that seek to develop the best in man.

--Dr. C. B. Smith.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Prayer is the most powerful force in the world today.
 It lifts the souls of men and quickens their spirits.
 It builds faith and a fearlessness to do what is believed
 to be right. It makes men strong. It is the forerunner
 of miraculous achievement. Without it, no nation can survive.

ORIGIN OF 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

4-H Club Sunday, or Rural Life Sunday, is observed by church organizations throughout the Nation to emphasize the meaning of Christianity in rural life. It occurs the fifth Sunday after Easter and is closely linked with Rogation Days, celebrated for centuries in the Christian Church during the 3 days preceding Ascension Day. Originally, they had several emphases, but gradually that of prayer for God's blessing upon the fruits of the earth predominated. Rogation Days were first observed by St. Mamertus, Bishop of Vienne, in Gaul, sometime prior to A.D. 475. In A.D. 511 they were ordered observed throughout France; and in A.D. 747 were established in England by church action. Alfred the Great held them in deep reverence and included them among the most important of holy days. They were established in Rome by Leo III about the end of the eighth century.

The idea is of far more ancient origin, however. In the earliest days of Egypt, the ceremony of blessing the land and the seed at the time of planting was widely observed. Hardly an ancient people but sought the favor of the gods at that time.

When therefore, 4-H members today assemble to worship God on 4-H Club Sunday, they join a long succession which comes out of the dim past of history. They join with those of many generations in seeking the blessing of God upon the land, the seed, the cultivation of the earth, and the enrichment of home and community life.

It should be noted also that 4-H Club Sunday is an outgrowth of Rural Life Sunday, which was first observed in 1929 at the suggestion of the International Association of Agricultural Missions, and soon adopted by the Home Missions Council of North America, by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and by numerous other religious bodies.

INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH

Words cannot express what our Nation owes to its churches, great and small, city and country, which, in spite of unhappy divisions, have lifted from the beginning the conception of one world and one world-wide brotherhood of all humanity.

Rev. Frederick Brown Harris, D.D., Litt. D.

ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE

In the observance of 4-H Club Sunday, 4-H members are always encouraged to attend the church of their own choice. At that time, in keeping with the Heart H, their attention can well be directed to the development of their own spiritual lives, and thus they can be helped "to stand firm under the pressures of life" (Children's Charter). Today, more than ever before, people of all lands are in need of that spiritual development which will enable them, if put to the test, to meet triumphantly the threatening crises that seem to overhang the world.

BETTER LIVING FOR A BETTER WORLD THROUGH 4-H CLUB WORK INFORMATION FOR THE CLERGY

Since its inception nearly two decades ago, the observance of 4-H Club Sunday has become an increasingly significant part of the 4-H Club program in a large number of States. This year, the theme, "Better Living for a Better World," was given its first impetus during the observance of our National 4-H Club Week, and will continue to be the theme for all 4-H events during 1949 in accordance with the action taken by the State club leaders. However, the spiritual implications of this theme will receive special emphasis in all programs planned in relation to the observance of National 4-H Club Sunday, in addition to that in keeping with the traditional spiritual significance of planting time.

It is being increasingly felt that all young people should be impressed with the necessity (1) of developing their spiritual natures, (2) of realizing the importance of divine guidance in the affairs of a Nation, and (3) of appreciating the rewards of living in tune with God and His laws.

Many phases of the 4-H Club program may be used to show also how the practical work in farming, homemaking, and community improvement makes for the spiritual development of the individual, the home, and the community. The quotations included in this manual are rich in suggestions for talks on 4-H Club Sunday which may inspire many a 4-H member to do more to enrich his own life spiritually and to become a more responsible member of society.

For those unfamiliar with the 4-H program, it may be of interest to know that 4-H Club work emphasizes the home. The practical work of the club--the demonstration--usually is done on the home farm or in the home of the club members. Often, club meetings are held in the home. This home work of the club member is of more importance than is commonly appreciated. There, at home with a task in keeping with his ability, the club member has the best opportunity for growth and development. By trying new ways of doing practical things in his own home environment and checking results, he can make many improvements in well-established home and farm practices that win the approval of the entire family group and thus make for family solidarity.

Moreover, the work of 4-H Club members in the home develops common experiences that make the work of the club group more valuable, and any outstanding accomplishment in relation to the home is apt to bring a type of group approval not otherwise attained. The club member naturally accomplishes more if he has the active interest and cooperation of his parents. This larger accomplishment not only helps to develop more capable young people at home but also sets standards for other members of the club.

As an integral part of the entire extension program in homemaking or farming a club member may participate in various home or farm activities in keeping with his needs or interests. For example, a club member may grow a garden in keeping with the dietary needs of the family and can the surplus garden products; raise crops or livestock for home consumption or for profit; run and repair farm machinery; conserve natural resources; plan, prepare, and serve attractive and healthful meals; make or select for herself and other members of the family, attractive, suitable clothing in keeping with the family budget; keep personal accounts; assume a share of responsibility for daily household tasks or farm chores; at times, take over the management of the home or farm when mother or father is at the State college or on vacation; make the home itself more comfortable and satisfying; add to the attractiveness and beauty of the exterior of the home by planting native shrubs and trees; help in the intelligent care of younger brothers and sisters; or become a partner with father in the farm business.

The 10 guideposts for 4-H members in developing their 4-H programs are indicative of the ideals toward which 4-H members strive, in keeping with their theme for 1949, "Better Living for a Better World." These 10 guideposts are:

1. Developing talents for greater usefulness.
2. Joining with friends for work, fun, and fellowship.
3. Learning to live in a changing world.
4. Choosing a way to earn a living.
5. Producing food and fiber for home and market.
6. Creating better homes for better living.
7. Conserving nature's resources for security and happiness.
8. Building health for a strong America.
9. Sharing responsibilities for community improvement.
10. Serving as citizens in maintaining world peace.

The ideals of better living are expressed also in many 4-H songs, such as Fannie Buchanan's "Dreaming," Fred Waring's "Place in the Sun," and Clare Rood's "Song of the Open Country."

4-H leaders are increasingly making an effort to reach parents, explain the values of the 4-H Club program to them, invite them to club meetings and various 4-H events and, if possible, enlist their active participation in some phase of the program. Many parents act as local leaders. In addition, parents of older members often enter into practical partnerships with them in carrying on some enterprise on the farm or in the home.

An effort is also being made to create a greater awareness of the need for a better understanding of the factors that make for happy family life relationships. Such factors include an understanding of the effect of 4-H Club work on the home and the techniques that should be followed in order to develop more lasting family satisfactions and greater family solidarity.

In addition, an effort is being made to help young people throughout this country to become responsible citizens of their own communities who are not afraid to stand for the right and, if need be, to fight for the right. In this connection, they are being helped to take their places in the community; to participate as active members in community organizations; to become alert to community needs; and to assume responsibility for the improvement of community conditions.

Moreover, an effort is being made to help young people to understand world conditions; to aid those in distress across the seas; and to do their full part in maintaining world peace.

THOUGHTS IN RELATION TO THE THEME FOR USE IN

OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 26, 1949

TO THE 4-H CLUBS OF THE UNITED STATES:

World peace is the main goal and the most cherished hope of this Nation. Peace is something as intangible as the minds and souls of men and women. When you mold and develop your minds and souls for good citizenship and useful living, as you are doing in 4-H Club work, you are makers of the peace.

As one who helped organize one of the first 4-H Clubs in my State, I congratulate you on your theme for this year, "Better Living for a Better World." May that theme become increasingly significant during your 4-H Club Week, March 5-13, and throughout the year.

The things you grow and the jobs you do in "learning by doing" all add up to more skilled farmers, better homemakers, more useful citizens, and more able leaders. These, in brief, are what make for better living and a better world.

--Harry S. Truman.

IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE YOUTH OF TODAY

It has been my pleasure, in the course of many years of active work with young people, to see hundreds of boys and girls grow up to fulfill the brightest promise of their youth, to become successful in many fields of human endeavor. I have seen some, on the other hand, whose talents and future looked equally promising at the beginning, fail to realize their own hopes and dreams and potential for good in the world.

What is the difference between the happy, well-adjusted individual who makes a success of life and of himself - and the unhappy, dissatisfied failure? Is it luck? A matter of chance or of getting the breaks?

No, the difference between success and failure, I am convinced, lies in spiritual development. Boys and girls must grow in spiritual stature as they grow in physical stature if they are to become the adults they want to be. They must train their hearts and consciences to usefulness as they train their hands to skills. Without proper spiritual growth, carefully nurtured by church and Sunday school, without the daily practice of religion, no human being can attain full stature or realize his own dreams. Without it, he is never a whole man, but only a spiritual cripple. With sound moral and religious training, with the daily experience of walking with God, any boy or girl achieves his own full growth and goes forth confident that he can fulfill himself, bring his talents to full expression, and contribute his vital share to the good of his community and the world.

--James L. Kraft.

A SPIRITUAL ALLIANCE

If we are to forge a spiritual alliance between men of all nations, we must become a mighty fortress for righteousness as a people. It is well to recall that as a people we act only by the group will of our individual citizens. No wall is stronger than its weakest stones. Only as we strengthen ourselves spiritually can we exert our group will in the interests of charity, tolerance, and enduring righteousness.

--Ruth Kerr.

FAITH - ESSENTIAL TO BETTER LIVING

As another year begins to unroll, we have reason for national and some international joy. Americans have contributed materially and spiritually to the practical cause of saving humanity from a Third World War. Our practical contributions can be measured in the CARE packages and CROP trains sent abroad; in the support we as a people have given the Marshall Plan; in the success of the United Nations, limited as that success may be. Our spiritual contribution is manifested by the increasing determination of our people to break the crisis of nations by placing faith in divine guidance, education, and the practice of everyday Christian democracy. In such faith lies greater strength than in the power of the atomic bomb.

--M. L. Wilson

THE GREATEST DISCOVERIES

The greatest discoveries will be made along spiritual lines. Some day people will learn that material things do not bring happiness and are of little use in making men and women creative and powerful. Then the scientists of the world will turn their laboratories over to the study of God and prayer and the spiritual forces which, as yet, have been hardly scratched. When that day comes, the world will see more advancement in one generation than it has seen in the last four.

--Dr. Charles Steinmetz.

THE MOST IMPORTANT INFLUENCE

Jesus Christ is easily the most important figure that has ever appeared in the history of mankind. However you regard him, the fact will remain that the life and death of Jesus, and the teachings attributed to him have influenced the course of human history more than those of any other man who has ever lived. He has been the religious inspiration of the whole European race throughout the two millennia during which that race has dominated and moulded the destinies of the entire world, culturally and socially, as well as politically, and through the period in which the whole of the earth's surface was finally discovered and occupied, and in its broad outlines shaped by civilization; this alone entitles him to the premier position in world importance.

--Emmet Fox.

NEED FOR KNOWING MORE ABOUT LIVING

Our knowledge of science has clearly outstripped our capacity to control it. We have too many men of science, too few men of God.

We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount... The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants... We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.

--Gen. Omar Bradley.

NEED FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE

With enough of almost everything, what we have too little of is the personal practice of an action-producing belief in Almighty God and in a knowledge of the availability, to us, of his guidance. Our forebears, who had too little of many things, had more of that. That, and not the size and complexity of our problems, is the chief difference between us.

Out of self-pride in what, materially, we have been able to do, too many people have been trying to do without God. Too many people have been trying to give irreligion the garb of respectability. They have made a vogue of unbelief. They have acted as though we could acquire education without acquiring a knowledge of religion, and wisdom without the experience and practice of religion.

We have not found peace within ourselves. We have not been able to establish it among the nations. With all our knowledge, we urgently need to gain sufficient understanding to recognize that there is an inescapable, cause-and-effect relationship between these mounting failures and our diminished faith. Unless we are willing to prepare for a new Dark Age, we must soon acknowledge that, good as we may think we are, we are not good enough to get along without the God our forebears found indispensable.

--Thomas E. Dewey.

SPIRITUAL TRUTH

Our Father, when we long for life without trials and work, without difficulties, reminds us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure. With stout hearts may we see in every calamity an opportunity and not give way to the pessimism that sees in every opportunity a calamity.

--Rev. Peter Marshall.

SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

From the discovery of fire to that of atomic energy, there has been evolution of man's mind and spiritual power. When man greatly needed fire, he invented it. If you have ever been in a snow-covered wilderness with all your matches out, as I have been, you would realize how great was the discovery of fire.

In the same sequence, goaded by new necessity, man has found a powerful source of energy in the atom. But it lies within our spiritual resources to make atomic energy good, rather than bad.

--Bailey Willis.

SPIRITUAL LAWS

The laws of mental and spiritual harvest are scientifically grounded. Just as tulips come from tulip bulbs and not from onions, so seed thoughts bear after their kind. There is no evading this law, and no appeal from its consequences....The fruit of patient planting by people of good will and of sacrificial spirit has not failed us. This is the harvest that sustains us while we wait for another seed-time and a wiser planting.

--Bridgeport Post-Telegram.

FOR A BETTER WORLD

We are our brother's keeper; and when we and our government help our brothers in other lands to use science, education, and good will as guides in their activities we not only give them the most effective assistance they can receive, we help create a better world for everyone--including ourselves.

--Noble Clard.

THE ANSWER

The answer to the shortage of food in the world cannot come through materialistic approach. It must come through divine guidance.

--Albert Goss.

THE BRIDGE BUILDERS

The bigness of a person is not determined by the amount of power he wields, by the army or navy he commands, or by the amount of wealth he has in the bank, but rather by spiritual qualities such as faith, hope, and love. The greatest men of the centuries have been those who have had a world mind and a mind to serve men. They have been those who have not conceived of life as a grab bag from which they take anything they like for their own selfish needs, but rather as a place where they can return a part of the investment which they have gained from the tireless efforts of those who have preceded them. They become bridge builders for the future -- that the chasms created by war and grief, poverty and race prejudice may be spanned by the power of an eternal God working in and through his children who are co-laborers with Him in this world -- the home he has given us.

--Dr. Reuben K. Youngdahl.

A PATTERN OF LIFE

I shall not predict future events. We may live through dark years and decades. We may pass through testings such as few generations have undergone. When the storm ebbs, and darkness clears and our children look out over the surviving world, they may find it very different from that of 1949. Many institutions may have vanished; others may have been radically changed. Nations, races, states, and economic methods may have been transformed. But of one thing I feel completely certain. The grandest, brightest institution of that coming day--however long may be the night that intervenes--will be the church as preserved by those who exalted spirit, lived by the spirit, demonstrated spiritual power in their daily words and life.

This reveals the necessity of a pattern of life, consciously accepted, persistently followed. Such a pattern makes demands. Living by it, one refrains from certain kinds of conversations, avoids certain habits, rises above certain indulgences--far more important, one lives in love, purity, and truth.

--Reuben H. Markham.

THE ESSENCE OF ALL RELIGION

Wakelin McNeel calls attention to the creed above creeds--the essence of all religion. This creed has been set to music, and 4-H Club members often sing it as their expression of high resolve.

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

I would be a friend of all - the foe, the friendless;
I would be giving and forget the gift;
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up--and laugh--and love--and lift.

--Howard Arnold Walter.

SOME SPECIAL HELPS FOR 4-H SUNDAY EVENTS

4-H INVOCATION

Our Father, we beseech Thee to bless this meeting. Open Thou our eyes that we may see Thy bountiful blessings; open our hands that we may better serve Thee; inspire our minds that we may comprehend Thy teachings; give us health and strength to do Thy will; and open our hearts that we may find room for love for all Thy people in every land.

As Thou dost send the rain to cleanse and refresh the earth, and the sunshine to purify and revitalize it, so cleanse our lives and revitalize us with Thy unceasing love.

We ask Thy blessings on all our fellow 4-H Club members, our leaders, our friends, our government, and those of other lands.

These blessings we ask in the name of Him who taught us to pray together saying:

(Repeat the Lord's Prayer.)

Amen.

--George Foster.

4-H BLESSING

Dear Father, we thank Thee
for food that gives our bodies health,
strength, and endurance; and we pray
that each of us seated here may be
blessed with greater faith, love, and
understanding, the better to do Thy
will and to serve our fellow men.
Amen.

--Florence Taylor.

A 4-H SERVICE OF DEDICATION

Suggested by 4-H Club Staff of New Mexico

(Select someone who can make this part of the program as sacred and reverent as possible.)

Reading: In Genesis we find "I will make of thee a great nation. In thee shall all the peoples of the earth be blest."

This was the Scripture read by Rev. John Robinson, pastor of the Pilgrim Church at Leyden, Holland, as the Pilgrims embarked in 1620. Even after half of them were dead during the first terrible winter in Plymouth, they dared to have dauntless faith in the promise of national greatness and world blessing.

The new nation on the new continent today finds those prophecies fulfilled in incredible and lavish possessions and power.

Let us now rededicate ourselves to the building of a Christian nation.

Invocation: Our Father, we praise Thee for all Thou hast done for us as a nation. It is through Thy goodness that ours is "A land of the free and a home of the brave" and it will be through our allegiance to Thee that we shall receive power and wisdom for its preservation. Invoke anew Thy blessings upon our President, the officials of our Government, and the citizens of our land. Enable us to take our place among the nations of the world in a spirit of humbleness rather than pride, with a desire to help more than to be helped, with righteousness and sobriety unmistakably present at all times and the love of truth flourishing in our hearts. In His name we ask it. Amen.

Salute to the Flags:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

"I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Saviour for whose kingdom it stands; one brotherhood, uniting all mankind in service and love."

Reading: We conserve democracy by establishing it upon an enduring foundation. Democracy is founded upon voluntary cooperation and not upon force. Voluntary cooperation is based upon Christian ideals and principles--love, fellowship, consideration of others.

Christianity has existed under all forms of government. Democracy has never existed for long except where the Christian religion was infused into the thinking and living of its people.

Singing: America.

Reading: American citizens need an inner guiding light. God can put that light into our hearts. The ancient sailboats followed the stars, but they could not venture far from shore. Man discovered the mariner's compass, and ships were thereafter guided by an instrument within. They were able to sail across the ocean and discover new country. Our nation needs not the outward signs to chart our course. We need the inner spirit of the living God dwelling in our hearts.

Poem From the Ship of State.....Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Thou, too, sail on, O ship of State!
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all its hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!
We know what Master laid thy keel,
What workmen wrought thy ribs of steel,
Who made each mast, and sail, and rope,
What anvils rang, what hammers beat,
In what a forge and what a heat
Were shaped the anchors of thy hope!
Fear not each sudden sound and shock,
'Tis of the wave and not the rock;
'Tis but the flappings of the sail,
And not a rent made by the gale!
In spite of rock and tempest's roar,
In spite of false lights on the shore,
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea!
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith, triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee, -- are all with thee!

PARTICIPATION OF 4-H CLUBS IN THE
OBSERVANCE OF 4-H CLUB SUNDAY

WHAT IT DOES

Enables 4-H members to think together about home, community, and world events in spiritual terms by means of some especially chosen theme such as "Better Living for a Better World."

Encourages 4-H members to identify themselves with those institutions that stand for the high ideals of a community, such as the church, the school, and other social organizations that lead to the full, all-round development of all those who participate.

Develops in 4-H members a better understanding of the inevitable relationship that people of the soil have with God.

Develops a deeper appreciation of the manifold values of rural life.

Provides 4-H members an opportunity to participate in a service that develops the Heart H.

Emphasizes and recognizes the spiritual value and character-building qualities of 4-H Club work.

Acquaints 4-H members with other character-building agencies.

Gives 4-H members an opportunity to cooperate with other community groups.

Helps 4-H members to realize their own responsibilities to the church of their choice.

A FAITH TO LIVE FOR

The words and the spirit of Holy Scripture breathe through every document that has made our Nation great. * * *

Loyalty and patriotism to country receive a strength and permanence that come only from God. * * *

The statesmen of a nation grounded in religious faith will exercise tireless patience to maintain an enduring peace for peoples everywhere.

--Tom C. Clark.

SUGGESTIVE WAYS OF PARTICIPATION IN
CHURCH SERVICES BY 4-H CLUB MEMBERS

MAKE CAREFUL PLANS

Each county will determine how 4-H Club Sunday will be observed. This usually is done by the county 4-H Club council, by a special committee of leaders and sponsors, or by a county extension agent.

Those in charge will get in touch as soon as possible with ministerial associations, other ministers, priests, and Sunday school superintendents and make arrangements, satisfactory to all, for conducting the services. This should be done well in advance of the Sunday selected for the observance of this special day. The following suggestive procedures are listed for consideration:

Plan county-wide observance of 4-H Club Sunday, if possible. If May 2 proves inconvenient, select a Sunday in May or June when there is the least conflict with events.

Make careful plans to suit local conditions.

Explain fully the meaning of 4-H Club Sunday and plans for the day to all local ministers, priests, or other church authorities well in advance and try to adjust plans to their convenience.

Furnish information about 4-H Club work to ministers for inclusion in the sermon. Give them a copy of this manual.

Highlight what 4-H Clubs are doing in improving their own communities and in sharing with the destitute people of other lands.

Encourage 4-H members of each church of the community to discuss plans for 4-H participation in the observance of 4-H Club Sunday with the minister or priest of the church of their choice.

Make arrangements for a combined service in a central church or hall, provided all churches of the community are in the habit of combining for special services.

Enlist the help of 4-H members in decorating the church with plants and flowers.

Have a 4-H Club committee, perhaps in uniform if it seems appropriate, to welcome people at the door of the church, if approved by church authorities.

Encourage 4-H members to assist in ushering or in taking up the morning offering, if it meets with the approval of church authorities.

Encourage 4-H members to invite parents, neighbors, and friends to attend.

If there is only one church in the community and church authorities approve, suggest to 4-H members that they might attend church as a group and wear membership pins, uniforms, or some special emblem made for the occasion.

As a part of a program, certain features that highlight the theme for 1949 may be dramatized.

Other ways of 4-H participation may include singing in the choir; giving talks; reading poems, creeds, pledges, prayers, scriptures; or contributing special musical numbers.

Forms of observance may include a 4-H sunrise or 4-H sunset service in some scenic setting; a 10- to 15-minute church period given over to the 4-H community club for special contributions of members; a similar period during the Sunday school hour; or a special service featuring the plow in keeping with the ancient English ceremony. On such occasions, appropriate hymns may be used -- hymns that are great and have done much to develop the spiritual ideals and stamina of this Nation. Young people might well be encouraged to become familiar with such hymns and to appreciate their worth and significance.

Encourage 4-H members to do something special to improve the home community or to help those in need. A special contribution to those needy people in other parts of the world would be most appropriate.

THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE IN THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

Reminders to 4-H Club Members in the
Observance of 4-H Club Sunday

The first act of the Pilgrim Fathers after landing on Plymouth Rock in 1620 was thanksgiving and prayer.

Tablets mark the pews rented and occupied by George Washington in churches in Virginia and New York.

"In God We Trust" is engraved on the coins of this Nation.

The national Congress and the State legislatures open their sessions with prayer.

"The official documents of American history ... affirm and reaffirm that this is a religious Nation."

--United States Supreme Court
decision.

"A churchless community, a community where men have abandoned and scoffed at or ignored their religious needs, is a community on rapid downgrade."

--Theodore Roosevelt.

"The older I grow, the more certain I am that morality is dependent upon the spread of religious conviction in the government and civilization of this country."

--William Howard Taft.

"Our civilization cannot survive materially unless it be redeemed spiritually."

--Woodrow Wilson.

"The strength of a country is the strength of its religious convictions."

--Calvin Coolidge.

"Our churches and religious institutions are indispensable stabilizing factors in our civilization."

--Herbert Hoover.

"The churches are the greatest influence in this world of ours to overcome the present tendency toward greed."

--Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

THE SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE IN 4-H CLUB WORK

4-H CLUB PLEDGE

I pledge

My head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service, and
My health to better living,
For my club, my community, and my country.

4-H CITIZENSHIP PLEDGE

We, individually and collectively, pledge our efforts from day to day, to fight for the ideals of this Nation.

We will never allow tyranny and injustice to become enthroned in this, our country, through indifference to our duties as citizens.

We will strive for intellectual honesty and exercise it through our power of franchise. We will obey the laws of our land and endeavor increasingly to quicken the sense of public duty among our fellow men.

We will strive for individual improvement and for social betterment. We will devote our talents to the enrichment of our homes and our communities in relation to their material, social, and spiritual needs.

We will endeavor to transmit this Nation to posterity not merely as we found it, but freer, happier, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

MY 4-H HOME

"The 4-H DREAMING SONG"

My home must have a high tree above its open gate,
My home must have a garden where little dreamings wait;
My home must have a wide view of fields and meadow fair,
Of distant hill, of open sky, with sunlight everywhere.

My home must have a friendship with every happy thing,
My home must offer comfort for any sorrowing;
And every heart that enters shall hear its music there,
And find some simple beauty that every life may share.

My home must have its mother, may I grow sweet and wise,
My home must have its father with honor in his eyes;
My home must have its children, God grant the parents grace,
To keep our home, through all the years, a kindly, happy place.

--Fannie Buchanan.

A PLACE IN THE SUN

There's a place in the sun for everyone
To grow ...you should know all about it.
There's love in the hearts of everyone
For you---if you're true, never doubt it.
Hands that will aid in the plans that you've made,
If you're not afraid to trust.
Lands to return all the things that you earn,
If you're wise and you're fair and you're just!

Give me a place in the sun!
With the clear, blue sky above,
On a day that sings of the growing things
And the full, free life I love!
Give me a place in the sun!
With the warm, sweet earth below,
Where the fields are clean with the living green
That my hands have made to grow!
Here's a health to the land that my head and hand
And heart have learned to know!

--Fred Waring.

A TIMELY 4-H PRAYER FOR BETTER LIVING FOR A BETTER WORLD

Give us grateful hearts, our Father, for all thy blessings;
help us to be more worthy members in our own homes and more
responsible citizens in our communities; make us mindful of
those in need; give us strength to do our full part;
relieve the suffering of the world; and grant peace in our
time. Amen.

